

## **9. OTHER TYPES OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Whereas the rehabilitation assistance described in the previous chapter is only provided to sponsors of flood control works that have an Active status in the RIP, the purpose of this chapter is to present information on other emergency related assistance the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can provide you, regardless of your participation or status in the RIP. In fact, the assistance described in this chapter may be provided regardless of whether there is any Flood Control Work protecting your community. The other types of assistance authorized under PL 84-99 include technical assistance with preparedness activities such as planning and training, advance measures assistance, direct assistance during and immediately after a flood, and emergency water assistance which may be provided during droughts or when your primary water source becomes contaminated.

It should be noted that all of the assistance described in this chapter would be of a temporary nature to meet immediate threats, and is not intended to provide permanent solutions to flood or water problems. Remember that the Corps will only provide these types of assistance after local and state authorities have committed all available resources and are still unable to cope with the situation, and in some cases will only do so if the benefits of constructing the project are found to outweigh the cost of the construction. Finally, except in the case of technical or direct assistance, the Corps will only consider requests for these categories of assistance if they come from the governor of a state, or from a Native American tribal leader. If you, as the public sponsor, believe that one of these types of assistance would be appropriate in your situation, first speak with your Corps district office to determine what sorts of details would need to be included in the request, and then coordinate your request so that it comes to the Corps through the proper official channels.

### **9.1 Technical Assistance**

The Corps is authorized to furnish technical assistance to local authorities at their request, advising them in their efforts to maintain the integrity of their FCWs. Technical assistance consists of providing technical review advice, and/or recommendations in support of state and local agency efforts, and helping determine feasible solutions to uncommon situations. The following are examples of technical assistance:

#### **a. Provision of Experienced Personnel**

Providing experienced Corps personnel to inspect existing FCWs and/or structurally threatened dams to identify potential problems and recommend corrective measures, to evaluate conditions to determine the requirements for additional flood control protection, and to recommend the most expedient emergency construction methods.

#### **b. Flood fight Techniques**

Providing personnel to give guidance on flood fight techniques.

**c. Hydraulic, Geotechnical and Topography**

Providing hydraulic or hydrologic analysis, geotechnical evaluations, topography and available stream data, maps, and historic flood or storm information.

**d. Provision of Information**

Providing information, which is readily available at Corps districts, for use in the preparation of local evacuation and/or contingency flood plans.

**9.2 Direct Assistance**

The Corps is authorized under PL 84-99 to provide direct assistance to local communities in response to flooding or coastal emergencies. Direct assistance may include, but is not limited to, issuing supplies, the loan of flood fight supplies and equipment, assistance with contingency contracting during emergencies, and supplemental support to aid local authorities in rescue operations and in the direction of flood fight operations. This is done in order to protect public facilities, residences, or improved property from flooding, or when there's a potential for loss of life. As a matter of policy, the Corps limits its flood fight activities on agricultural levees to technical assistance. Direct assistance does not need to be requested by the governor of a state, and may initially be granted based on a verbal request, though a written request must follow and a signed cooperation agreement must be signed before it can be provided. Legal responsibility for the actions remains with the requesting state or local official. For more details on direct assistance, please contact your local Corps district.

**9.3 Advance Measures Assistance**

Advance measures assistance is another type of assistance available under authority of PL 84-99. Advance measures assistance is provided when there is a clear prediction that there is an imminent threat of unusual flooding, which would result in substantial flood damages to an area if no preventative action is taken in advance of the flooding. Advance measures assistance is provided prior to the predicted unusual flooding, and can include technical and/or direct assistance such as supplies, equipment, and/or emergency contracting, through which the Corps may be able to repair, strengthen, or temporarily raise your flood control projects, or remove stream obstructions. However, there are several key qualifications to this type of assistance that significantly restrict the types of situations where it can be provided, and these are listed below. Please contact your local Corps district for the terms of local cooperation, for details on the governor's request, or for other details regarding this assistance.

**a. Imminent Threat & Unusual Flooding**

The Corps must determine that an "imminent threat" of "unusual flooding" exists in order to approve advance measures projects. The evaluation of the threat must come from an objective, statistically supported source like the National Weather Service. The determination of what qualifies as "unusual flooding" is subjective, but for example, if it has been predicted that the flooding will approach an area's flood of record or will be greater than a 50-year level of flooding, these may be considered unusual flood events. Be aware, however, that some areas of the country get flooded so frequently that sometimes even a 50-year flood isn't always considered a particularly unusual event. Again, this is a subjective determination that's made by the Corps.

**b. Project Investigation Report**

The Corps will prepare a project investigation report before advance measures assistance is provided. This report is needed to evaluate and justify the construction of an advance measures project, and this particular type of assistance wouldn't be given in cases where there wouldn't be sufficient time to complete this investigation before the flooding is expected.

**c. Temporary Protection Only**

Advance measures projects will only be constructed to provide temporary protection from flooding, and must be removed or upgraded by the public sponsor to meet federal flood protection standards, after the flood threat has passed. This assistance is not to be used as a means of circumventing the normal authorization process to have the Corps construct more permanent FCWs, and is not to be used as a "quick fix" for local agencies that do not adequately perform regular and routine maintenance.

**9.4 Post Flood Assistance**

Immediately following a major flood, hurricane, or coastal storm, the governor of your state may request post flood assistance, in writing, from the District Engineer. This request must be made concurrently with or immediately after the governor's request to FEMA for a disaster declaration under the Stafford Act. Post flood assistance may be either technical or direct assistance and is limited to actions to save lives and protect improved property. The Corps may assist in clearing flood-deposited debris in order to reopen critical transportation routes (to provide access to medical facilities, for example), or to clear watercourses, drainage channels, bridge openings, water intakes, sewer outfalls, or other structures, if critical for the restoration of public services, public safety or to prevent further significant damage. This assistance may be provided for a maximum of ten days of receipt of the governor's request. No work will be performed after the 10-day period expired, or initiated subsequent to a presidential disaster declaration or denial.

The assistance won't be provided directly to individual homeowners, businesses, or agricultural property, and won't be provided for efforts to collect post-flood data. Please contact your local Corps district for details on the governor's request, for the terms of local cooperation, or for other details regarding this type of assistance.

**9.5 Emergency Water Assistance**

If requested by the governor of a state, the Corps may provide temporary emergency water for human consumption to drought distressed areas or to those areas with contaminated water sources in order to meet minimum public health and welfare requirements. Long-term solutions to water supply problems are the responsibility of state and local interests. Typically, the Corps will fund the transportation of water to areas with extreme drought, but will not purchase the actual water. For more details on this type of assistance, please contact your Corps district office.